There is no occasion for the Government to react. The transfer was made in accordance with the provisions of Article 222 of the Constitution with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of India.

Transfer of gas connections

167. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow the customers to transfer their gas connections in the names of their close blood relations in the event of their marriages or leaving the stations for a long period;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) Normally, LPG connections are non-transferable. However, in special cases like those mentioned in the question, the LPG connection can be transferred, subject to production of an authorisation letter from the original owner and deposit of a security at the current prevailing rates, by the prospective transferee.

(c) Does not arise.

Scheme to tap new energy sources

168. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a comprehensive scheme to tap new energy sources; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comprehensive programmes of R&D, demonstration, utilisation, industrial production, evaluation etc. to tap new energy sources are being implemented by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. As a result of intensive R&D activities and demonstration programmes taken up in various areas of non-conventional energy sources, a number of technologies have been developed which have been found technically feasible for various applications including generation of electricity. Large-scale extension programmes, such as Nationl Programme on Biogas Development, National Programme of Improved Chulha, Solar Thermal Extension Programme have been launched throughout the country and have started making an impact in saving wood and conventional fuels, environmental improvements and improvement in the quality of life particularly in the rural areas. Solar photovoltaic systems have been developed and are being increasingly deployed for electrifying remote villages and other small power needs. A programme for utilisation of wind energy for pumping and electricity generation is being implemented. Projects relating to production, conversion and utilisation of biomass have reached the extension stage and biomass gasifiers for electic power production have already started to be commercialised. A number of energy self-sufficient villages (URJA GRAMS) have been set up and a programme initiated for a large number of such villages, where energy for cooking, lighting and other needs of the entire village could be provided by locally available non-conventional sources of energy. Investigation and development efforts relating to utilisation of tidal energy, ocean energy and